

HONORING KATHERINE CLOSE, REGIONAL SPELLING BEE CHAMPION

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2002*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional young woman from my district that has distinguished herself by winning the March Spelldown 2002, allowing her to advance to the 75th Annual Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee.

Katherine "Kerry" Close, a fourth grader from Spring Lake, New Jersey, beat 100 other students in Monmouth, Middlesex and Ocean Counties to make it to the final round of the regional spelling bee held in Asbury Park, New Jersey. Winning the bee qualified her and a guardian for a paid trip here to Washington to compete with 249 other nationwide winners who will compete in the four-day national bee beginning May 26.

Her study strategies include listening to a couple hundred words each day, then having her parents quiz her on those words. In reality, the possible words she may face can be any word in the English language, a daunting task for a nine-year old. Kerry will also be one of the few contestants her age, but insists that she is not nervous about the event.

I and all the residents of the Sixth Congressional District of New Jersey would like to once again congratulate Kerry on her achievement. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the best of luck to Kerry and all her fellow spelling bee champions from around the nation as they compete at the national spelling bee championships.

**HIGHWAY FUNDING RESTORATION ACT**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3694 a bill to restore critically needed federal highway funds. I am a cosponsor of this important piece of legislation.

As you know, the President's budget includes a cut of nearly 27 percent or \$8.5 billion to the Federal highway program in Fiscal Year 2003. The impact of such a cut would be devastating to state and local transportation programs and to the economy in general. Every \$1 billion invested in the Federal highway program supports an estimated 42,000 jobs. A cut of the magnitude in the President's budget would result in the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs at a time when the economy is slowly pulling out of a recession.

The Highway Funding Restoration Act increases funding for roads bridges and safety programs by \$4.5 billions in Fiscal Year 2003, the level authorized by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). Since the enactment of TEA-21, the nation's transportation infrastructure has benefitted immensely. To halt this progress by cutting funding by 27 percent would hurt communities and

the men and women whose livelihood depends on transportation-related projects.

Mr. Speaker, without the passage of this important legislation, my state of Texas will lose \$297 million dollars in Federal transportation funds. Texas simply cannot afford cuts of this magnitude. H.R. 3694 is a good piece of legislation and is supported by 317 cosponsors. I urge the adoption of this important bill and ask my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

**RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTEREY PARK DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2002*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Monterey Park Democratic Club. Founded on May 19, 1952, the Monterey Park Democratic Club has made many achievements over the years.

One of their most important efforts has been to increase voter turn out. This has given a voice to numerous residents of Monterey Park who otherwise would not have had one. Since the 1950s, the Monterey Park Democratic Club has also sponsored and promoted several important community events, including roundtable discussions on local issues. Club members are not afraid to tackle sensitive issues like the Nuclear Freeze campaign of the 1980s, lobbying to close the nearby landfill or opposing billboard signs and gambling. Their passion and leadership is commendable. I applaud President Irv Wilner and other club leaders for their leadership.

It is clear that the Monterey Park Democratic Club has done much to enhance people's confidence in government and faith in democracy. I ask you to join me in honoring their celebration.

**REMEMBRANCE OF FALLEN TULARE COUNTY PEACE OFFICERS**

**HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2002*

Mr. THOMAS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join the people of Tulare County and the United States of America in thanking those peace officers who have made the supreme sacrifice while working to enforce our laws, protect our homes, and guard our lives. Events of the past year have served as a poignant reminder of the selfless dedication to duty that peace officers demonstrate every day, and those of us who served in the 105th Congress were the direct beneficiaries of this devotion, when two Capitol Hill Police Officers fell in the line of duty.

The Tulare County Sheriff's Department's Peace Officer Memorial Service and dedication of the Peace Officer Memorial was held yesterday, May 15, 2002, in Visalia, California. This monument pays tribute to the nineteen Tulare County peace officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. To honor their noble sacrifices, the people of Tulare County have come together to donate the funds need-

ed to make this lasting tribute to these brave individuals a reality.

This monument honors eight members of the Tulare County Sheriff's Department, three members of the California Highway Patrol, and eight members of various other law enforcement agencies located in Tulare County, including one federal officer from the National Parks Service. The Tulare County peace officers who have been killed in the line of duty are: Deputy John N. Wren, Deputy Oscar A. Beaver, Constable Robert A. Carter, Officer George Owen Barlow, Officer Norman A. Kessler, Officer Richard L. Simpson, Sergeant Charles Garrison, Officer Richard W. Smith, Deputy Ross C. Cochran, Officer John R. Ellis, Deputy Vernon L. Cox, Deputy Carlos Magana, Officer Thomas J. Schroth, Detective Monty L. Conley, Detective Joe R. Landin, Deputy Michael R. Egan, Reserve Officer Ronald Hills, Ranger James Randall Morgenson, and Officer James J. Rapozo.

In closing, I thank these and every other law enforcement officer for their sacrifices made to protect and serve their fellow citizens.

**RECOGNITION OF AARON SIMMONS**

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2002*

Ms. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Aaron Simmons, founder and president of TreePots, Incorporated, in the Second Congressional District of West Virginia. Mr. Simmons has achieved the title of Young Entrepreneur of the Year. The West Virginia Division of the United States Small Business Administration, a leader in the promotion and growth of our state, gives this award annually.

Mr. Simmons began TreePots, Incorporated, with the idea of creating a planter to place around trees. Mr. Simmons' enterprising concept has provided a three-year corporate success for him. Mr. Simmons truly embodies the values that created the American success story: self-reliance, hard work, perseverance and optimism. I commend him for his contributions to the West Virginia economy.

Successful small businesses not only serve as the backbone of the economy, they anchor communities and promote civic pride. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Simmons' tremendous achievement as the West Virginia Small Business Administration's Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

**A TRIBUTE TO DR. CALVIN W. BURNETT**

**HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.**

OF MARYLAND

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2002*

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay special tribute to Dr. Calvin W. Burnett, President of Coppin State College in Baltimore, Maryland. On May 17th, we will join many of Dr. Burnett's admirers in a tribute to